



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

JUN 10 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional, Science, and Office Directors, NMFS

FROM:

R. Lusk
for William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

SUBJECT:

Final National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) National Gravel
Extraction Guidance

The 1996 NMFS National Gravel Extraction Policy has been revised and reissued as the NMFS National Gravel Extraction Guidance (Gravel Guidance). The revised Gravel Guidance includes updated information, recommendations and references that will provide meaningful assistance to NMFS staff involved in consultation activities where gravel mining in or near streams may affect anadromous fishes and their habitat. Revisions to the Gravel Guidance further support and strengthen NMFS's recommendation that gravel extraction operations should not interfere with anadromous fish migration, spawning, or rearing; or negatively impact viable historic or existing anadromous fish habitat. The Gravel Guidance is reissued as a guidance document, rather than a policy statement, to reflect that it is internal NMFS guidance that should be adapted to address Regional needs and local physical and biological settings.

The process to update the Gravel Guidance was a collaborative effort involving input from NMFS Regional and Science Center staff, other state and Federal agencies, the aggregate industry, and the public. I would like to thank Kerry Griffin and Katie McGlynn of the Office of Habitat Conservation, and Dave Packer of the Northeast Fishery Science Center for managing this collaborative effort and producing the improved version of the Gravel Guidance. I would also like to thank all NMFS staff who contributed their time and insight to make the Gravel Guidance a more useful tool to protect anadromous fish resources and their habitats.

Comments or questions on the Gravel Guidance should be directed to: Dave Packer (F/NEC23) at Dave.Packer@noaa.gov, (732) 872-3044; or to Katie McGlynn (F/HC2) at Katie.McGlynn@noaa.gov, (301) 713-4300.

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THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES

